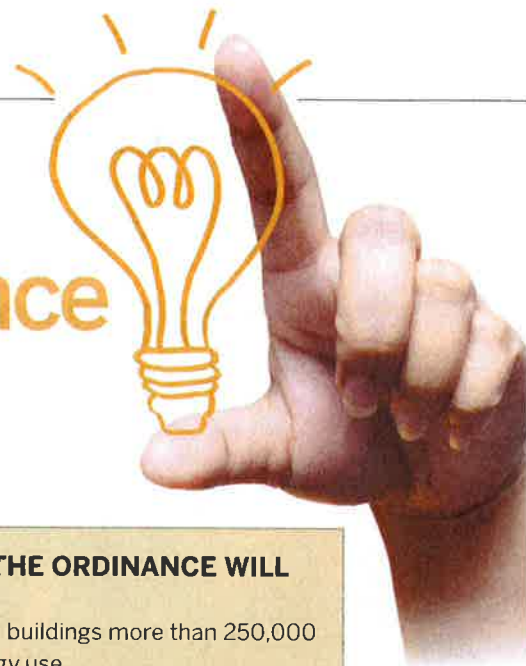


# Cook County Enacts Energy Benchmarking Ordinance

## Major Step Forward in Implementation of Sustainability Goals



**THE COOK COUNTY** Board of Commissioners approved a Building Energy Benchmarking Ordinance that will continue the county's advancement of its "green" initiatives.

"I believe that Cook County should be a world-class model of sustainability," stated President Toni Preckwinkle. "The passage and implementation of this ordinance is a major step towards realizing our goal."

The Cook County Sustainability Advisory Council Report issued last year found that energy use in buildings accounts for two-thirds of greenhouse gas emissions in Cook County. The Report calls for an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in county-owned buildings by 2050. The Building Energy Benchmarking Ordinance requires the county to capture baseline data and set accountability measures as it moves towards this goal.

An update on the full scope of the county's sustainability work, including initiatives being undertaken by the Green Leadership Team, is in the final stages of preparation.

Tracking a building's energy use helps to understand its energy efficiency, and is necessary for effective energy management by identifying opportunities to improve performance and achieve financial benefits. The county will employ the free web-based benchmarking tool, commonly known as "ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager," developed and maintained by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to track and assess energy and water consumption across an entire portfolio of buildings.

The Benchmarking Ordinance requires the county to lead on energy

### OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, THE ORDINANCE WILL REQUIRE THE FOLLOWING:

- Aug. 1, 2014, the county will benchmark buildings more than 250,000 square feet for calendar year 2013 energy use,
- June 1, 2015, the county will benchmark buildings more than 35,000 square feet for the previous calendar year.
- June 1, 2016, benchmarking information must include water usage data.

reporting by tracking annual energy and water use of its buildings larger than 35,000 square feet. The Ordinance also requires an annual report be

issued to the President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, after which the report will be available to the public. <

## PRECKWINKLE RECOGNIZED AS LEADER IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

**COOK COUNTY BOARD** President Toni Preckwinkle, whose commitment to improved energy efficiency has saved taxpayers millions of dollars, was recognized this year with the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance's (MEEA) 2014 Inspiring Efficiency Leadership Award.

Since 2010, Preckwinkle's administration has implemented several innovative efforts to cut energy use and improve services for county residents, including the largest single-phase Guaranteed Energy Performance Contracting (GEPC) project ever undertaken by a county. The project will implement energy upgrades at the nation's second-largest public health system and the nation's largest single-site county jail. The energy saved through the project will cover its \$60 million estimated cost, allowing the upgrades to be completed at no cost to taxpayers.

Through this GEPC project, the county will also be able to reduce energy



President Preckwinkle is joined by (left to right), Herman Brewer, Bureau Chief, Cook County Bureau of Economic Development; Deborah Stone, Cook County Sustainability Officer and John Cooke, Director, Office of Planning and Policy as she receives the MEEA 2014 Inspiring Efficiency Leadership Award.

use and emissions by 20 percent, create 600 local construction and technology jobs and secure \$237,000 in Illinois energy rebate revenues in 2013, with more than \$1 million projected in 2014. <